

An early warning system is one of the most effective ways to protect your high quality sources of drinking water....

... get your community involved in protecting your water supply NOW!!!



The PAWS Partnership program was developed by PA Rural Water Association—an association of water and wastewater systems in Pennsylvania—dedicated to protecting our water sources for now and the future.

c/o PRWA - Source Water Protection
138 West Bishop Street
Belleville, PA 16823

P.A.W.S. Partnership

DRAFT

"the Water Watchdogs"

*P.A.W.S.
Partnership
Guide for Water Suppliers*



P.A.W.S.
Partnership



Water Supply Protection

Poll after Poll shows that Americans are very concerned about the quality and safety of their drinking water. Ask any water supplier and they'll agree that protection of the raw water—ground or surface—is utmost important in keeping treatment costs down and maintaining quality sources for future generations. Amazingly, less than 20% of all public water supplies in the U.S. have watershed or wellhead protection programs in effect.. Do you have a protection program for your water supply?



Wellhead Protection Area Map

The most effective source water protection programs have a strong public involvement component. By getting your community involved and training them what to look for near your water sources, you can minimize risks and more effectively manage emergency situations.

P.A.W.S.—Protecting America's Water Supplies

PAWS is a partnership program between the local water supply and the residents and businesses in the watershed or wellhead area. These "Water Watchdogs" act as early warning signal of activities or accidents that could affect the raw water quality. The PAWS Partners are provided training and contact information for local law enforcement, emergency management agency and water supplier if they notice anything suspicious or potentially damaging to the water supply.

Getting Started

The PAWS Partnership can be implemented in many ways and should be tailored to fit the needs of the local community. If you would like to initiate a PAWS Partnership, here are the recommended steps.

- 1) Contact PRWA for the basic guidance material or visit the website at www.pawspartners.org. In Pennsylvania, a PRWA Technician may be able to assist you upon request.
- 2) If you don't have a Source Water Protection Plan, identify the wellhead or watershed protection area for you sources. This information may be available from the state Safe Drinking Water Act primacy agency. By September 2003, this information should be provided to you by the state primacy agency in the form of a SWAP Report.. If you have or are developing a Source Water Protection Plan—incorporate the PAWS Partnership as a Management Task.
- 3) Identify the homeowners and businesses that are located in the source water contribution area. In larger watersheds, identify those people located within 5 miles upstream
- 4) Invite all identified residents to a public meeting to show maps of the source water contribution area and explain the program. Provide contact numbers for reporting activities or incidents. Appoint a chairperson/coordinator.
- 5) Host annual meetings to update participants about protection efforts by the water supply.

Information Request Form

Use this form to request more information on the P.A.W.S. Partnership Program. PAWS is 100% voluntary and there is no obligation by completing and returning this form. Additional information can be found at www.pawspartners.org or www.waterwatchdogs.org.

Representing:

- Private water supply
 Public Water Supply
 Water Association
 Other (please, specify)

Does your water supply have a source water protection plan?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Level of Interest:

- High
 Medium
 Low

Type of Local Water Supply:

- Surface (river, lake)
 Ground (well, spring)
 Both

Name of Water Supply: _____

Comments or Questions:

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ FAX: _____

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c/o PRWA - Source Water Protection
 138 West Bishop Street
 Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-353-9302
 Fax: 814-353-9341
 Email: joelprwa@aol.com